

REMARKS

Claims 20-39 are pending. Claim 20 is independent and generic. Claims 25-32 and 36, are drawn to an arrangement with at least one light guide. Claims 21-24, 33-35, and 37-39, are drawn to a device with two illumination channels.

I. Applicant provisionally elects claims 25-32 and 36 with traverse.

On page 3 of the Office Action, an election due to an alleged lack of unity of invention is required. Applicant hereby provisionally elects claims 25-32 and 36 drawn to the at least one light guide for examination with traverse. Independent base claim 20 is stated to be generic. Independent base claim 20 also includes the "at least one illumination channel" language.

II. The traversal.

The restriction states that:

The two alleged species are alleged to not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species are alleged to lack the same or corresponding technical features for the following reasons: "a illumination arrangement with one channel functions differently and has a different effect than does an arrangement with two channels."

Applicant respectfully notes that the Examiner states that base claim 20 is generic. It is also noted that base claim 20 contains the language "at least one illumination channel." Claim 25 depends directly from claim 20, and claim 25 includes the language "at least one light guide." However, claim 25 is alleged by the Office Action to be a species limited to one illumination channel.

The other alleged species (b) directed to two illumination channels , i.e., claims 21-24, 33-35, and 37-39 is alleged to lack unity of invention with the first alleged species (a), i.e., claims 25-32, and 36 which claim "at least one" illumination channel as discussed above.

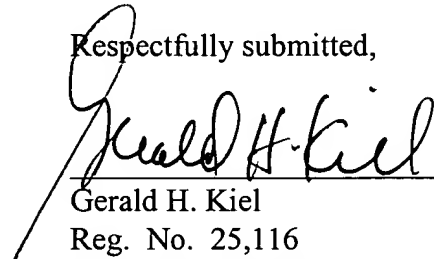
However, as the language "at least one illumination channel" in claim 25 is directed to one or more channels, it is respectfully not understood how the Office Action states that two distinct species are claimed given "the at least one" language which would cover one channel or two channels for example. Also, the Office Action states that claim 20 is generic while claim 20 also uses the at least one illumination channel language. Therefore, how can claim 20 be generic while claim 25 is not?

Additionally, applicant respectfully asserts that restriction is not required for the following additional reasons. First, the search will be the same for method and apparatus. Second, it will be more efficient for the USPTO to examine the claims in the same application. Third, it will be less expensive for the applicant to avoid payment of separate prosecution fees, issues fees, and maintenance fees. Fourth, there is a general public policy against allowing separate patents to arguably the same subject matter. Therefore, as a matter of public policy, and Patent Office policy, the restriction is not required.] ?

Thus, in summary, this invention discloses the method of manufacturing such a product, and the product that results from the method, are so closely interrelated that it makes sense for them to be in the same patent application.

Therefore, for the reasons above applicant respectfully asserts that the restriction requirement has been traversed. Reconsideration and removal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald H. Kiel
Reg. No. 25,116
Attorney for Applicant(s)

Reed Smith, LLP
375 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10152
(212) 521-5400
GHK/DPL/